

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A scanner comprising:

a casing;

~~a scanning module installed inside the casing for scanning
a document and generating corresponding image data;~~

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a control unit installed in the casing, the control unit comprising at least a memory for storing a control program and the image data generated from the scanning module, and a processor for executing the control program to control the operations of the scanner; and

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an output port electrically connected to the control unit for connecting to at least one of different types of portable storage devices;

wherein when the scanning module finishes scanning a document, the control unit transmits the image data of the document to the storage device according to the type of storage device that is connected to the output port.

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~~2. The scanner of claim 1 wherein the output port is connected to a printer, and when the scanning module finishes scanning a document, the control unit prints out the image data of the document via the printer.~~

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3. The scanner of claim 2 wherein the control program first identifies the type of storage device connected to the output port, and then controls the transmission of the image data of the document according to the said type.

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4. The scanner of claim 1 wherein the scanner further comprises a connecting port installed on the casing and electrically connected to the control unit for connecting to a computer, and when the scanning module finishes scanning the document, the control unit transmits the image data of the document to the computer for further processing via the connecting port.

5. The scanner of claim 1 wherein the portable storage device is a hard drive or a floppy drive or a writable optical drive.

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10 6. A scanner comprising:

a casing;

a scanning module installed inside the casing for scanning a document and generating corresponding image data;

15 a control unit installed in the casing, the control unit comprising at least a memory for storing a control program and the image data generated from the scanning module, and a processor for executing the control program to control the operations of the scanner;

20 an output port electrically connected to the control unit for connecting to an external portable storage device; and a printer port electrically connected to the control unit for connecting to an external printer;

25 wherein when the scanning module finishes scanning a document, the control unit transmits the image data of the document to the storage device via the output port, or transmits the image data of the document to the printer via the printer port for printing.

30 7. The scanner of claim 6 wherein the scanner further comprises a connecting port installed on the casing and electrically connected to the control unit for connecting to a computer,

~~and when the scanning module finishes scanning the document,~~
the control unit transmits the image data of the document to
the computer for further processing via the connecting port.

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8. The scanner of claim 6 wherein the portable storage device
is ~~a hard drive or a floppy drive or a writable optical drive.~~

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